



The Secretariat

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## South East Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (SEAFO)

14 June 2021

Miguel de Serpa Soares  
Under-Secretary-General for Legal Affairs and UN Legal Counsel

**RE: RESPONSE FROM SEAFO on General Assembly resolutions 75/239 –  
report of the SG on oceans and the law of the sea 2021.**

Dear Miguel

I acknowledged receipt of your said request. Below please find SEAFO response regarding ongoing assessments in the SEAFO Convention Area regarding the said.

The Convention Area of SEAFO are not rich in fisheries resources with about 2-3 % of the whole area being shallower than 2000m of depth. The fishing effort since 2005 never exceeded 5 vessels and 4 contracting parties in any one year. Since 2013, only Longline and Pot fishing were conducted with maximum catches of 60 tonnes and 196 tonnes respectively. The situation have not changed much over the years.

The fishing pressure in the SEAFO CA is still considered as very low. Due to the low level of exploitation, SEAFO finds itself in a data poor situation when it comes to stock assessment and ecosystem management.

In 2006, the SEAFO Scientific Committee adopted the closure of 12 areas where VMEs occurred. These areas were all on seamounts and seamount complexes with summit depths shallower than 2000 m.



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### **II Capacity Building**

SEAFO will not be able to contribute to the fund, since we are struggling at the moment to get financial contributions from our Contracting Parties just to cover the SEAFO annual operation cost. The Covid 19 situation are partly to be blamed for this situation. There are outstanding contributions of two of the seven CPs for 2020 and for 2021 only two CPs have paid their contribution.

### **IX Marine environment and marine resources**

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, planned research surveys were cancelled.

Since the last report in June 2020, bathymetry data collected during previous research survey by the RV Dr Fridtjof Nansen was share according to an MOU between the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, on behalf of the EAF-Nansen Programme / SEAFO and the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs acting through The Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS) / The university of Plymouth The data is used for modelling of VME occurrences.

The modelling was done and the results will soon be available to SEAFO scientist.

Due to Covid 19 the SEAFO annual meetings of Nov 2020 was kept to the minimum agenda items and was conducted mainly via correspondence.

The normal fishing activites continued and the SEAFO System was applied for compliance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lizette Voges', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Lizette Voges

Executive Secretary